

**To:** Meer, Daniel[Meer.Daniel@epa.gov]  
**From:** Calanog, Steve  
**Sent:** Thur 8/20/2015 8:05:45 PM  
**Subject:** Re: Continued work on Gold King Mine response on the Navajo Nation

# Deliberative Process/Ex. 5

v/r

Steve Calanog  
Federal On-Scene Coordinator  
US EPA Region IX

415-595-8350

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 20, 2015, at 2:04 PM, Meer, Daniel <Meer.Daniel@epa.gov> wrote:

You were cc'd on this email. You did not receive it?

Daniel A. Meer, Assistant Director

Superfund Division

Emergency Response, Preparedness and Prevention Branch

415.972.3132 (O)

415.971.6792 (C)

**From:** Calanog, Steve  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 20, 2015 12:05 PM  
**To:** Meer, Daniel  
**Cc:** Guria, Peter; Allen, HarryL; Lawrence, Kathryn; Moxley, Bret  
**Subject:** Re: Continued work on Gold King Mine response on the Navajo Nation

All - Please include me in the discussion on this as this impacts our role in Area Command

v/r

Steve Calanog

Federal On-Scene Coordinator

US EPA Region IX

415-595-8350

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 20, 2015, at 12:49 PM, Meer, Daniel <[Meer.Daniel@epa.gov](mailto:Meer.Daniel@epa.gov)> wrote:

I talked with OSC Bret Moxley, our Incident Commander in Farmington New Mexico, Pete Guria our area commander in R9 and Harry Allen, Emergency Response Section Chief regarding EPA's current situation in Farmington and the prospect of future work.

At the field and area command levels, we all agree that further field work at the present time (surface water sampling or community involvement work) would not be productive or provide any useful information.

OSC Moxley was informed that NN's Criminal Investigation Division has taken custody of the tank in question, as evidence. He also has a sample from the tank in question, it has not had a proper chain of custody but he believes it is a bona fide sample. The sample has no color and no odor.

OSC Moxley is very concerned about the safety of the EPA staff and contractors in Farmington, now approximately 25. People in the field are very stressed out and burned out and the recent Facebook posting by the NN AG has put everyone on edge.

OSC Moxley's recommendation, which Harry Allen, Pete Guria and I agree with, is that we demobilize our operations completely, for a period of time and make plans to

retrieve the tanks. When we retrieve the tanks we will be able to document their status (ie take samples and photographs).

The preconditions for a return to work would be something along these lines:

# **Deliberative Process/Ex. 5**

Dan M

Daniel A. Meer, Assistant Director

Superfund Division

Emergency Response, Preparedness and Prevention Branch

415.972.3132 (O)

415.971.6792 (C)